## In the Claims

Applicant has submitted a new complete claim set indicating marked up claims with insertions and deletions indicated by underlining and strikeouts, respectively.

Please cancel claims 1-19, and 32-60 without prejudice or disclaimer.

1-19. (Canceled)

20. A method of selectively modifying nucleic acid molecules in a biological composition, said method comprising the step of contacting the composition with an inactivating agent having the formula:

$$\omega\text{-}X_1\text{-}[R_1\text{-}N^+(R_2, R_3)\text{-}]_nR_4 \; (X_2^-)_n$$
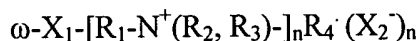
wherein X_1 is Cl or Br; R_1 is a divalent hydrocarbon moiety containing between 2 and 4 carbon atoms, inclusive; each of R_2, R_3, and R_4 is, independently, H or a monovalent hydrocarbon moiety containing between 1 and 4 carbon atoms, inclusive, provided that R_2, R_3, and R_4 cannot all be H when R_1 contains 2 carbon atoms; X_2 is a pharmaceutically acceptable counter-ion; and n is an integer between 2 and 10, inclusive.

21. The method of claim 20, wherein R_1 is alkylene and each of R_2, R_3, and R_4 is, independently, H or alkyl.

22. The method of claim 20, wherein R_1 contains 3 carbon atoms.

23. The method of claim 20, wherein each of R_2, R_3, and R_4 is H or a linear alkyl group.

24. The method of claim 20, wherein X_2 is selected from the group consisting of chloride, bromide, acetate, and tosylate.

25. The method of claim 20, wherein n is 3 or 4.

26. The method of claim 20, wherein said biological composition is a cell-containing composition.

27. The method of claim 20, wherein the nucleic acid molecules are contained within a transforming DNA fragment.

28. The method of claim 20, wherein said nucleic acid molecules are contained within an infectious vertebrate virus.

29. The method of claim 28, wherein the virus is an enveloped virus.

30. The method of claim 28, wherein the virus is a non-enveloped virus.

31. The method of claim 28, wherein said inactivated virus comprises a killed virus vaccine.

32-60. (Canceled)